

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 21, Number 12

December 2001



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Wilmington District

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December 2001**

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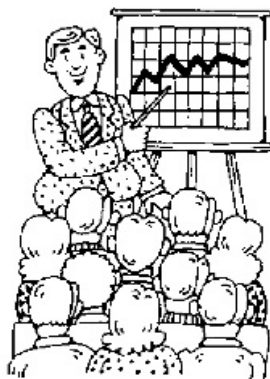
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Speaking Out



Regulatory Program Manager Mickey Suggs presented an overview of federal regulations on wetlands, waters jurisdiction and permit program procedures to the Topsail Island Board of Realtors.

Project Manager Al Bjorkquist and Construction Engineer Rolando Serrano were keynote speakers for the Cape Fear SAME meeting. Bjorkquist and Serrano recounted their "Ground Zero World Trade Center Rescue and Recovery" efforts while giving a PowerPoint presentation with photos taken at the scene.

W. Kerr Scott Operations Manager Eric Jeffcoat hosted a meeting of the Wilkes County Leadership Group. Jeffcoat presented a history of the lake project, an overview of public recreational facilities and a summary of community outreach programs. The group also toured the camping and day use areas.

Chief of Public Affairs Penny Schmitt gave an overview of the District Mission and Projects to 20 members of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Ranger Michael Hosey gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Bald Eagles and Other Raptors at Jordan Lake" to 24 members of the Holly Springs Women's Club. The club's Conservation Committee initiated the event.

District Deputy Commander, Major George Shepard, visited Acme Delco Middle School in Columbus County. Major Shepard talked with approximately 40 seventh and eighth grade students about the Engineering Profession as part of a series sponsored by the school on "Jobs that use Math."



Cover Photo:

Wilmington District Biologist Chuck Wilson as "Santa Claus" with little Jackson Collins, son of Jocelyn Collins (IM), at the Holiday Party for TEAM members' children. Photo by Alverta Sandy



Left: Santa Claus (Biologist Chuck Wilson) asks Jody, son of Doug Wall (TS-E), what he wants for Christmas. Photo by Alverta Sandy

Below (L to R): Union members Gwen Dye (RG), Sharon Day (TS), Thelma Hemmingway (RG), Larry Benjamin (TS-EG), Keith Benton (TS-ED), Oweita Freeman (TS-EE), Nancy Watkins (EM), Gloria Harris (TS-EC), Genia Boswell (RM), and Gaye Bullard (RM-FE) around the District Office tree and presents from District TEAM members for the "Angel Tree" project. Photo by Julius James

Wilmington District Spirit of Giving

By Christine Bruske

Wilmington District TEAM members celebrated the holiday season by meeting needs within their communities and throughout the world. This year's generous support of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), Angel Tree and Operation Christmas Child exceeded the giving in previous years. Precious gifts of time and talent also marked the District holiday season as "Santa" traveled to local schools patiently listening to every child's wish list.

This year, the United Way recognized Wilmington District with the Gold Award for an outstanding average CFC donation of \$87 per employee. The District also received the United Way Achievement Award for increasing donations by 18% over the previous year. "We committed \$24,879 to local, state and worldwide charities," said Sarah Tingley, who organized the fund drive. "We had the highest total for contributions in the Cape Fear Area."

In cooperation with the New Hanover Department of Social Services and New Hanover Human Resources, AFGE Union members coordinated a District-wide Angel Tree program that provided holiday presents to nine needy children. "Our union members served as contacts for each division and passed on the children's information for gift giving," said Union President Diane Greene. Each child participating in the Angel Tree program provides details like size and style of clothes, specific toys and school supplies desired. "We were able to give each child all the items on their list," said Greene. In addition to gifts contributed to the union effort, the Resource Management staff provided presents for two children who were listed on the Angel Tree at a local shopping mall.



Operation Christmas Child was also a big success, thanks to the generosity of District TEAM members. Forty-four beautifully decorated shoeboxes were stuffed with toys, candy, personal grooming items and school supplies for delivery to boys and girls throughout the world. "The shoeboxes we collected went to Samaritan's Purse, which sent shoeboxes to about 5 million children last year," said Construction Engineer Rolando Serrano.

Nothing delights the hearts of children like a visit from Santa Claus. The District's very own Santa Claus (Biologist Chuck Wilson) visited two local preschools and a local elementary school all in one day. "Santa" was also the main attraction at the District Holiday Party where TEAM members' children sat on his lap and whispered their hopes and dreams for Christmas morning. "I look forward to this every year," said Wilson, who starts growing his Santa beard each September. "The kids really seem to enjoy the visits and it puts everyone in the holiday spirit."

The Spirit of Giving didn't end with activities done through the District Office. TEAM members also gave individually through churches, community groups, help organizations and clubs. As a result, people throughout the world were touched by the generosity of Wilmington District TEAM members. ▲



Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate, spoke in support of the Oregon Inlet Jetty project.



Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Mike Parker (left) discusses details of the project with Wilmington District Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Eugene Tickner.

ASA sizes up

By Penny Schmitt

Photos by Scott Maners

There's no substitute for "being there." Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Civil Works Mike Parker and other federal officials visited Oregon Inlet in December to get a real live look at the roiling waters and shifting sands. They also listened to many people's opinions on the project, and received detailed briefings from Wilmington District Project Delivery TEAM members. How best to make the inlet safer for navigation has been the subject of controversy for more than 30 years.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce sponsored the proposal to build jetties intended to stabilize

currents and ease maintenance of a deeper navigation channel. The project, designed by the Corps, will soon come to Secretary Parker, the Presidential appointee who oversees the Corps' Civil Works program, for a Record of Decision.

Parker and officials from the Department of Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) sized up the inlet from Bonner Bridge, and questioned Wilmington District technical staff about the project. They got a first hand view of the inlet's notoriously unruly waters.

"This is a calm day?" Parker asked, looking at the currents. The group also saw the Wilmington District Sidecast Dredge MERRITT hard at work to move sand out of the main navigation channel. Under today's conditions, dredging can only keep the channel at the current project depth about 25 percent of the time.

Visiting officials had opportunities to meet with one another, with local officials, and to hear from strongly opposed environmental groups and supporters like local fishermen, who believe the project is vital for safety and their continued livelihood.



Chief of Project Management Wayne Bissett reviews a map of the proposed jetty sites.



Sidecast Dredge MERRITT works to clear shoaling in the Oregon Inlet.

Oregon Inlet

Secretary Parker expressed his view that the project study period had gone on long enough, and that it was time for a decision. "I believe the project should be built," he told local officials at a luncheon meeting.

However, a final decision on the project has yet to be made.

An audit being done by the General Accounting Office at the request of Senators Baucus (D-MT) and Edwards (D-NC) will not be completed until March. Meanwhile, the CEQ has been asked to resolve areas of conflict between the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Corps.

At a public meeting held the same day as the ASA visit to Oregon Inlet, Mr. Jim Connaughton, Director of CEQ, discussed possible courses of action. He said his office has a range of options, which could include turning the project over to the Corps for its decision, asking agencies that have conflicting opinions to keep working for a resolution, asking for more research, publishing CEQ's own findings, or taking the issue to President Bush for a decision.

"I've heard the range of views on this," he said. "I don't think the extremes on either side are correct."

Connaughton emphasized that he had come to listen, and listen hard, to what people had to say about the project. Throughout the public meeting, which was evenly balanced by proponents and detractors, he asked probing questions, and emphasized that he was there at the requests of Senator Helms and Congressman Jones to ensure that local views were clearly heard.

For more information on Oregon Inlet Project, visit <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil> ▲



Holiday



(L to R) Nancy Kell (DA) and Dee Dee Fauser (OC)



Naomi Hazlett (PM-C)



Linda Linder (RM)



Gwen Dye (RG) and husband, Cliff



Keith Odberg (IMO)



Gloria Price (OP) and husband, Winston



Party!!!

Photos by Julius James and Keith Odberg



Major George "Thatch" Shepard and wife, Jennie



Gloria Harris (TS-EC)



(L to R) Genia Boswell (RM), Ashley Shaver (TS-EC) and Diane Boswell (LM)



Lou Smith (RM) and wife, Patricia



Entertainer Fred Pearce



SNELL Crew

Billy Cuthrell, Master
Keith Fulcher, Chief Engineer
Jerry Fulcher, Crane Operator
Lester Gaughf, Timber Worker
Rob Page, Timber Worker
Tim Feith, Marine Oiler

"Just Do It!" Success

It was one of those "Just Do It!" moments Chief of Engineers Robert Flowers told us about, and District TEAM members "Just DID."

In October, both the Construction and Public Affairs offices at Wilmington District received calls from Pete Dixon. Dixon's shrimp boat had lost about \$3,000 worth of equipment when it became entangled in a towing area just south of Snows Cut. He believed that the equipment had caught on a piece of submerged dredge pipe, and was asking the Corps to put him in touch with the contractor who might have lost the pipe.

Construction put Mr. Dixon in touch with a Corps contractor who had been working in that area. "But we couldn't be sure from Mr. Dixon's report just exactly what the obstruction was," said Bob Sattin, Chief of Navigation. "It could have been a snag or some other object. I decided that we should just run a survey to see what was out there, since it could be a danger to mariners."

Sattin's survey crew came back with an image showing a straight item about 90 feet long on the bottom. "Sure

looks like dredge pipe to me," Bob said. "I think there's a way to take care of this." Meanwhile, survey conveyed the information about the location and size of the obstruction to mariners.

Working with Navigation Engineering Technician Howard Varnam and the crew of the District's debris boat SNELL, Sattin arranged for the SNELL to pick up the object as it was passing through the area on an assigned mission. In early November, the SNELL salvaged the piece of dredge pipe, and along with it, Mr. Dixon's lost equipment. They delivered the items to the new facilities dock at Snows Cut on a scheduled stop.

There, Pete Dixon was very happy to pick up his temporarily lost equipment and put it back into service. The pipe remains at the dock, where the dredge company can pick it up, and pay the Corps the costs of salvage.

"It was good for our customer, we found a legal and ethical way to carry out the work, and we sure were willing to be accountable!" said Sattin. "Mr. Dixon was tickled to death to get his equipment back!" Varnam added.

We're happy we could help! ▲



Wilmington District's debris clearing vessel SNELL

SNELL:

By Penny Schmitt

By the time Wilmington District commissioned the SNELL on December 18, 1967, she already had lived out one life as a World War II derrick boat with a crane. A three-man Wilmington crew brought her limping up from Savannah out of the mothballed fleet to be refitted.

She is named for Paul M. Snell, known as "Pappy" during his long tenure in Wilmington District. Snell started work here as a deckhand in 1914 and retired in 1956 as director of Construction and Operations and a dredging expert of international renown. In the 34 years since her commissioning, the SNELL has proved herself to be the same kind of multitasking, flexible workhorse as her namesake.



Vessel's namesake, Paul M. Snell



The SNELL and her crew aid the Coast Guard in moving navigation buoys within the Oregon Inlet.

A Multitalented Workhorse

"The flexibility to respond to a variety of conditions and job requirements is the SNELL's most important gift to the Corps," said Outreach TEAM leader Don Carmen. "In nearly every job she does, bad weather or unexpected site conditions are a factor. A Corps-owned vessel is vastly superior to contracted service for this kind of work, since on-site flexibility and time flexibility are critical."

That has been true of SNELL for nearly her whole career with the District. The decision to acquire the SNELL was made when "it became evident that the preparation of contract specifications for work that defied exact description was virtually impossible."

The SNELL's primary purpose was to clear debris that was choking North Carolina waterways. Private contractors couldn't do the job because of risk, unpredictability, and lack of the needed special equipment. The SNELL was the right answer then, and soon became the right answer for other jobs. By 1984, snagging and clearing were only half of SNELL's work. Her other tasks included and still include:

- pile driving,
- subaqueous boring and probing,
- building retaining walls, fender systems, mooring dolphins and piers,

- maintaining dredging and navigation ranges, waterway signs and mileposts,
- repairing fender systems and guide walls.

Recently, the District's Outreach TEAM recognized the SNELL as one of our unique regional competencies for her capacity to do subsurface geotechnical investigations (*see story on page 8*).

Today, the SNELL is available to do these tasks not only in District waters, but also up and down our coastline. She is a valued asset used by many districts to accomplish important work supporting coastal projects. ▲

SNELL teams up with Geotech

By Penny Schmitt



Crewmembers of the SNELL prepare to position Vibracore machine for sampling operation.
Photo by Ben Lackey

Ben Lackey, a geotechnical engineer with Wilmington District, says that the SNELL and her crew have become vital assets in project development. "We use the SNELL to do Vibracore sampling," Lackey explained.

Vibracore is a method of taking core soil samples by sinking a vibrating tube as deep as 20 feet into the soil or subsurface. The samples tell what type of materials exists in proposed borrow areas, and provide a good way to determine whether there is beach-quality material for shore projects. The district also conducts sampling before a dredging maintenance operation to find out whether the dredged material should be placed in a disposal site or on a nearby beach.

"The equipment is pretty simple, but the process can be real expensive with a private contractor. SNELL can do the job for us at one-third to one-sixth the cost," said Lackey. "When you compare overall costs of \$500 per sample

versus \$1000 or even \$3000, it's clear that SNELL adds value!"

What makes the sturdy debris boat so valuable? "The crane on board is perfect for lifting and placing the Vibracore machine, whether we're working at the shoreline or in 60 feet of water," Lackey said. "She also has sophisticated navigation equipment on board that can help us place our sampling precisely. Most important, Captain Billy Cuthrell, Master of the SNELL, and his crew, are very flexible and able to do what the District needs done on any given day. In fact, the crew has such a great attitude that they'll put in a 10 to 16-hour day with us if that's what's needed to get the job done."

According to Lackey, the Vibracore operation has become steadily more efficient as Cuthrell and his crew gained expertise. "In the past, we borrowed equipment from Mobile District, and we had two of their people along when we did sampling. Now, we don't need those extra people, because

the crew has learned exactly what to do. In fact, they have taken the original procedure and improved it." Eventually, Mobile District simply transferred their Vibracore machines to Wilmington District, because SNELL has proved to be so efficient.

Captain Cuthrell has also installed an air compressor on board that can be easily hooked up to the Vibracore machine. "On any other vessel, you'd have to hire a compressor," Lackey explained.

Together, Wilmington District Geotech and the SNELL have become a regional asset. "Jacksonville District calls on us for Vibracore sampling," Lackey said. "Even though it can cost as much as \$80,000 to mobilize and demobilize the SNELL for the long trip south, she still works cheaper than a private contractor ever could.▲



Once in position, the Vibracore machine can sink a tube 20 feet into the subsurface to retrieve soil samples.



Chief of Wilmington District Regulatory Division, Wayne Wright, receives the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. Photo by Scott Maners

The “Wright” Reward

By Christine Bruske

Governor Mike Easley has honored Dr. Wayne Wright, Chief of the Wilmington District Regulatory Division, with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian award.

During a meeting of state and federal officials, Transportation Board Chairman Doug Galyon presented Dr. Wright the award for his many contributions to North Carolina during his 30 years with the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers.

“Dr. Wright has created programs that serve both the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources,” said Galyon.

Most notable among Dr. Wright's many achievements is his co-authorship of the “Multi-agency NEPA/404 Merger Agreement.” The Agreement integrates National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for transportation systems with the environmental permitting process laid out in

Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. Implementation of the NEPA/404 Merger Agreement was instrumental in establishing North Carolina as a leader in environmental streamlining and in building quality transportation projects that minimize environmental impacts.

Dr. Wright also supported development of the Wetlands Restoration Program (WRP). In 1998, he negotiated and prepared a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the United States Army Corps of Engineers that allowed use of the WRP for compensatory mitigation by the Corps of Engineers. The Memorandum of Understanding gave rise to an “in-lieu fee” program that ensured timely and accurate compensatory mitigation projects throughout North Carolina. Over time, the program has led to improved water quality, wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities and flood prevention. The program is now a pivotal part of transportation projects across the State.

“Our department is truly grateful for the vision and support Dr. Wright has given over the years and the lasting contributions he has made to the State of North Carolina,” Galyon said.

As a result of Dr. Wright's commitment to responding to a rapidly growing transportation system in North Carolina, the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers now has 10 positions dedicated to work on Department of Transportation-related projects.

“I am deeply appreciative of, and honored by, this award,” said Dr. Wright. “This award belongs to everyone in the Wilmington District Regulatory Division, and also the state employees, who have worked so hard over the years to find better ways to serve the citizens of North Carolina and the Nation.”

Congratulations to our entire Regulatory staff. The recognition is certainly deserved...it is the “Wright” reward for all you do. ▲

Operations Plan Update Managing Risk

"Every morning, it's a new day," said Bill Harris, Safety Officer for the Wilmington District. "I'm happy that we ended the work day on December 21st with 172 days without a lost-time injury for the District TEAM and 100 days without a lost-workday injury for our contractor work force."

"Now it's a whole New Year. I prefer that we all take 2002 one RISK-MANAGED day at a time. Every day, we each have the opportunity to add to the total of safe days, or to bust our score back to zero."

"Managing risk wisely is the key to continued safe operations," Harris said. "Add an extra measure of precaution to what you are doing as you observe risk increasing," he said. "If you're driving to work in fog, use your lights, and slow down. The same applies for icy or rainy conditions. That response to added risk can give the critical margin of safety!"

"As for daily operations, there's still no substitute for thinking through the risk management process before undertaking a task" Harris said. "Many of us are going to be moving to new offices in the New Year. That is not an everyday task for office workers, so it deserves an extra measure of attention. I urge everyone to view the video on "Lifting and Carrying" available from the Safety Office before you start to work."

"All of you who work with heavy machinery, use chemicals or fuels, get into confined spaces, use electrical equipment have great opportunities to think first and chalk up another day of safe operations" he added.

"Remember to look at every job from the point of view of potential risk, the measures you can take to reduce that risk, and the best way to do the job," Harris said.

"If something looks too risky, stop and wait for better conditions. Or get the needed equipment or assistance. A moment's attention up front can save a lifetime of regret." ▲

John H. Kerr Section 216 Study moves forward

Fifty years in the life of a Corps project is time enough for vast changes to occur in its landscape. In the years since 1953, when the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir were created, an environmental revolution has swept the nation, intensive development has built up along our coastlines, and public lands have become ever more precious as recreation resources. Philosophies of river basin management have been transformed. Second homes for recreation and retirement have mushroomed on the landscape. Municipalities in the Virginia and North Carolina regions near the lake have grown from sizeable towns into cities.

Under Section 216 of the River and Harbor and Flood Control Act of 1970, the Corps is accorded the authority to take a fresh new look at project operations after physical and economic conditions change. "John H. Kerr is exactly the kind of project the Section 216 authority addresses," said Project Manager Sharon Haggett. "It's a major resource in its region, and that region has changed dramatically. The value we place on increasingly scarce natural resources has also risen over the years."

Project sponsors, members of the Corps' Project Delivery Team, and other members of the Advisory Committee met to kick off the formal

study on November 15th, 2001 in Raleigh, North Carolina. "The Reconnaissance Report was delivered last March," Haggett said. "Now we are preparing the Project Management Plan" (PMP). This defines the project's scope of work, issues to be addressed, what studies to conduct, models to be used, scheduling and estimated costs."

John Morris, Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, is enthusiastic about the study.

"I think we're off to a good start, with a great partnership with Virginia, North Carolina and the Corps," he said. "As we approach the Project Management Plan phase, we know that people have many different outcomes in mind for the study, but we also know that a great project comes from great science. We'll be taking time to identify and formulate the kinds of data collection and studies that will give us the very best information. We have asked for ideas, and we've already received some very thoughtful comments. I'm confident this input will pave the way for better decisions. That's important, because we all know we're engaged in a very substantial way with understanding a complex system it's a difficult intellectual challenge!"

The draft PMP is expected to be completed in the spring of 2002, and finalized in the summer. ▲



The Section 216 Study will help define future services and facilities at John H. Kerr Reservoir.

HR CORNER

New Hiring Program

The Federal Career Intern Program is a hiring authority for trainee positions in a variety of occupations. In general, individuals are appointed to a 2-year internship. The appointment is an excepted-conditional appointment in the excepted service. Upon successful completion of the 2-year internships, the interns are eligible for noncompetitive consideration for permanent placement to a career-conditional appointment in the competitive service; if not converted, the appointment of a career intern expires at the end of the 2-year internship period. Federal Career Interns with the Wilmington District will be hired as Civil or Mechanical Engineers, Biologists, Physical Scientists, Geologists, or Accountants. Interns will be covered by a formal training plan that includes training and developmental, rotational, or other job assignments appropriate to the career field in which they are hired. The qualification requirements vary depending on the career field. The qualification standards are found in the Qualifications Standards Handbook Operating Manual, which is published by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and available online at <http://www.opm.gov>. Candidates selected will be required to sign a Department of the Army Employment and Mobility Agreement for interns.

This is a valuable, locally controlled recruiting tool for hard-to-fill positions. If you know of exceptional candidates who would like to become part of our TEAM, please let them know about this program. The 01FCIP Recruiting Bulletin that includes required forms for the application is available in the lobby or from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC).

For additional information, contact Tonya Rabb in the CPAC, 910-251-4875. ▲



Brigadier General Pete Madsen

In an early November message, Brigadier General Pete Madsen, Commander of South Atlantic Division, set a clear course for our region to follow. Here are some excerpts from his message:

Great opportunities are in front of the Corps and South Atlantic Division. Administration and Congressional support for water resource needs in the Southeast promise us a full, active future working to meet the nations' goals.

Clearly, we'll also be part of major national efforts in response to the tragedy of September the 11th. Security of critical infrastructure and Homeland Defense will call us to new roles and missions.

Your past successes will keep the Corps' door open and continue to attract new customers. All of this requires us to be an agile organization, ready to adapt and change to meet the requirements of our Army and our Nation. I believe we have four important tasks as a Division

Aggressively pursue the Strategic Vision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Vision, with its People, Process, and Communications strategies, gives the whole Corps the impetus for change on many fronts. It also knits us together with a consistent approach throughout our many Districts, Divisions and Laboratories. Our SAD Campaign Plan and the corresponding District plans will align with the Corps Vision focusing our efforts on corporate goals. I expect our January Senior Leader Conference will yield a refreshed plan, renewed commitment, and focus on many initiatives now in the current plan along with new objectives.

Delight our customers: 'Satisfying our customers' is no longer enough. We have to work extra hard to maintain good communications, involve them throughout our process, and meet or exceed their expectations. That's how we get repeat business, and why we will acquire new customers.

Regional TEAM building, SAD priority

Optimize our organizations: Our costs must remain competitive. Changing customer needs demand that we seek new ways to build flexibility into the rules that guide our use of human talent.

Build the regional team: We will learn to use all of SAD's talents and resources to meet customer needs and respond to opportunities. Success as a regional team will call on us to develop trust that working together as a team to make the business choices that best serve our customers will also serve us better for the future.

I am excited about the future here in the South Atlantic Division. I look forward to seeing your successes, listening to your challenges and learning from your experiences. You have built great relationships with state and local municipalities, federal and regional agencies, and DoD customers. In the Everglades, you lead the Corps' greatest engineering challenge of the decade. In Panama, you are participating in what could be one of the great engineering feats of this century, the expansion of the Panama Canal. Across the South Atlantic Region, you are the ideal leaders in many Federal, State, and local efforts to balance growing water demands against limited supply. Your relevance to the Nation has greatly increased since September the 11th, as you move to the forefront of efforts to improve security at military installations and critical infrastructure. As always, you do a superb job supporting the brave men and women serving around the world to defend our freedoms. Our future offers great opportunities. Working as a Regional Team, we can meet them! Our successes will benefit our military and civil customers, and through them, our Nation. For ourselves, we will achieve the pride and satisfaction that comes with being a winning team. There is no better feeling! ▲

New Members to the District



Marti Sedgwick, Space Management Assistant, Logistics Management. Marti joins the Wilmington District after four years as a Facilities Industrial Engineer and 10 years as an Environmental Engineer at Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Marti earned her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina and her M.B.A. from Georgia State University. Marti and her husband, Brad, have two sons, Jay and Jarod.



Tony Young, Hydraulic Engineer, Coastal H&H. Tony joins the Wilmington District after 10 years with the N.C. Division of Water Resources where he was Chief of the Water Supply Planning Section and Chairman of the N.C. Drought Monitoring Council. Tony earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a M.S. in Coastal Engineering from N.C. State University. Tony and his wife, Libby, have two daughters, Mary Beth and Haley.



Lisa Hetherman, Project Manager. Lisa comes to the Wilmington District after seven years with the Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers where she worked in Operations as Adult Fish Coordinator. Lisa earned a B.S. in Biology from Northern Michigan University. She completed her master's coursework and research on juvenile Northern Pike. Lisa's husband, Chris, is a Quality Assurance Manager in Holly Ridge, NC.



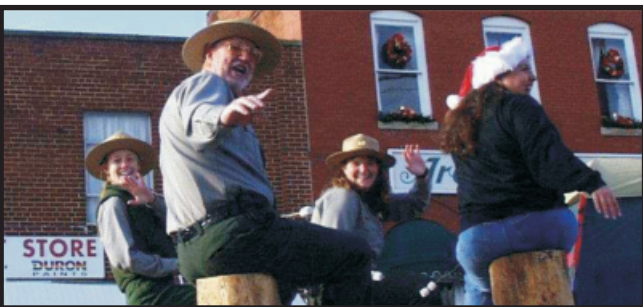
Paula McCoy Brown, Emergency Management Technician. Paula comes to the Wilmington District after more than 18 years in state government. For 12 of those years, she served in the N.C. Division of Emergency Management, Operations and Planning Section. Paula earned her B.A. in Political Science from Atlantic Christian College. She lives in Burgaw with her husband, Ted, and her 10-year-old son, Evan.



Julius James, Co-op, Public Affairs Office. Julius is currently enrolled in the Masters of Public Administration program at UNC-Wilmington. He is a nine-year veteran of the U.S. Army where he served as a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Specialist. Julius holds a B.A. in Therapeutic Recreation from UNC-Wilmington. Julius and his wife, Gina, have four children, Ebony, Jamil, Julius and Autumn.



Shannon Maness, Park Ranger, John H. Kerr. Shannon transferred to the Wilmington District from the Savannah District, Hartwell Lake Project, where he served as a Park Ranger for more than four years. Prior to beginning a career with the Corps of Engineers, Shannon worked as a Ranger for the National Park Service. Shannon earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University. He is originally from Bennett, NC.



(L to R) John H. Kerr Reservoir TEAM members Beth Huffines, Jimmy Martin, Shannon Crews and Joyce Taylor wave to the crowd from a float in the South Hills Christmas Parade. The float carried the message "Safety is our year-round wish" and included a Christmas tree decorated with life jackets (not shown).



(L to R) District Deputy Commander Major George Shepard, Design Engineer Ed Dunlop, and Construction Engineer Len Farmer represented the District Corps of Engineers in the annual Wilmington Veteran's Day Parade.

District Commander COL DeLony presented Civil Engineer Doug Green with an On-the-Spot Cash Award for going "beyond the call of duty" while working on three Hurricane Floyd recovery projects. While on annual leave, Doug made trips to each of the three project sites, inspected the condition of the projects, and took digital photos for reference and for assisting county management. Chief of Emergency Management Ron Stirrat initiated the award.



Elizabeth Anne Pollard, daughter of Brooke Lamson (OC), was awarded a Wilkins Scholarship to attend the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Wilkins Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement and leadership.

James Harpold, son of Penny Schmitt (PAO), has graduated from Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Business.



"Best Wishes" to Dr. Wayne Wright as he retires from his position as Chief of the Regulatory Division. Wayne began his career with the Wilmington District 30 years ago as a Chemist.

Jeff Whiting (HR) and his wife, Jennifer, are happy to announce they have adopted two daughters, April and Jennifer. Congratulations to the whole Whiting family!

The musical career of Mona Jones, wife of Shane Jones (IM), was the subject of a feature story in *Encore*, a local periodical.

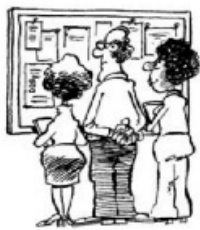
Civil Engineer Technician George Gilgo has retired after 18 years with the Wilmington District. George also served in the U.S. Army and worked as a civilian employee at Cherry Point Naval Station.



Congratulations to District TEAM members Abb Stallings and Danny Kissam. Both were promoted to Contract Specialist GS-11.

Best Wishes to Environmental Engineer Jan Brodmerkel in her move from the Technical Services Division to Project Management.

The next Wilmington District Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, January 24th, 0800-1200. Please make plans to give the gift of life!



Corps Family News

Retiree News

By Bob Swart

There were only 15 attendees at the December meeting. I suppose folks were out doing their holiday shopping, even though it's been hard to get into the spirit of things with the weather so warm. The following were in attendance: Lawrence Crawley, Edith and Jim Vithalani, Doris and Ken Old, Virginia Uzzell, Jean and Dan Grimsley, Max Grimes, Gus Moore, Buddy Johnson, Gloria and Paul Woodbury, Eric Matzke, and Dorothy Everette.

Buddy Johnson marched in the Veteran's Day Parade in Morehead City, serving as a flag bearer for the group of WWII veterans. The parade was reported to be the largest ever held in Carteret County. Max Grimes went out on his annual hunting trip in the mountains during the Thanksgiving week. He took along his two sons and 7-year-old grandson. Max only slipped and fell one time while climbing over the mountains, although he wore out the soles of his boots. One of his sons became known as Batman after a bat landed on his head while he slept early one morning.

Gus Moore appears to have become involved in wild game hunting. It seems that the deer in the area have been growing fat while dining on the soybeans being made available on his farm. Eight deer have been removed from the effort. A comment was made by one of the luncheon attendees that Gus should be ashamed, baiting those deer like that.

Surely, Joe Lewis did not think that he would be left out of this month's report because he was not in attendance. It is suspected that he was staying close to home to make sure that Santa Claus didn't get too deep in the pocketbook. We should remember that the New Year is about to come around again and accounting time is close by. Maybe Joe can give us a better explanation when we next meet. I (Bob Swart) was not in attendance because I was participating in a church meeting in Sanford that day.

Our best wishes go out to all. Have a Happy New Year. We will be hoping and praying for many good things to be happening for everyone. See you retirees at our next meeting at the regular time and place. Come and let us know what's going on in your life. ▲

Borrow Blaze Orange and Be Safe!

By Dana Lee

"The hunter saw a movement and thought it was a deer ..." This is a common theme in annual hunting season stories about accidental shootings of humans mistaken for game. Accidents like this could easily be avoided if only the unmistakable blaze orange of a safety vest and hat would flash through the trees.

Falls Lake Rangers know their trails run through public hunting lands. For years now, the Falls TEAM has put up signs at all trailheads to notify hikers of hunting season and remind them to wear blaze orange or brightly colored clothing.

For most people living near Falls Lake, in the urban neighborhoods of North Raleigh, thoughts of hunters and blaze orange never cross their minds. That's exactly why the staff at Falls has stepped up safety with a **"Borrowed Blaze Orange"** program.

Hikers can now borrow a blaze orange vest or hat, use it while hiking and then return the item when they leave the park. The Falls TEAM has set up two containers near hiking trails where vests and hats are stored. Each container is labeled with instructions on how the program works.

To discourage vandalism and theft, container lids are fastened down after dark. Vests and hats have been stenciled with "USACE" and rangers check the containers regularly. So far so good!

By implementing this program, the Falls TEAM has taken a step in the right direction of managing multi-use lands. Borrowed Blaze Orange ensures that Falls Lake will continue to provide hunting opportunities as well as safe hiking trails.▲



A North Raleigh resident borrows a blaze orange vest from the Corps of Engineers to wear during his daily walk around Falls Lake.

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